

Radical changes needed to
rescue Arubus **pg 3**



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German firm develops
Internet eraser . . . **pg 6**

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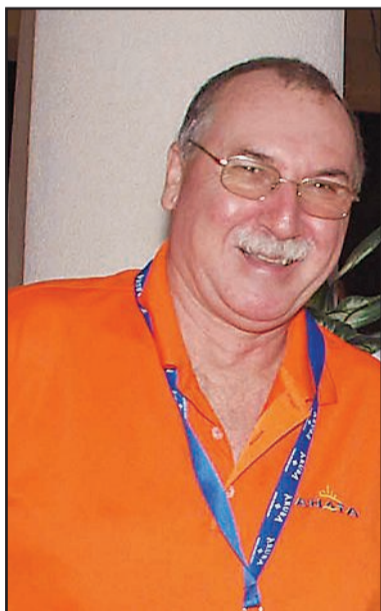
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Another challenging year ahead says AHATA



James Hepple

ORANJESTAD -- President and CEO of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA) James Hepple, reported to island media that 2011 had all the makings of another challenging year for Aruba's tourism industry during a press conference at their Oranjestad headquarters yesterday afternoon.

"The final numbers are not

yet in for 2010" explained Mr. Hepple, "but so far, the year has shown some modest improvement over 2009, which had been one of the worst years in memory for the tourism sector. Over all, overnight visitors to Aruba are up almost 2%; average room occupancies were higher than the previous year. However, there had been no improvement in the average price achieved for the sale of each room night as hotels continued to struggle with consumers' demands for discounted prices. Visitors have also cut back across the board regarding many tourism related businesses. The island's tourism industry as a whole has taken note that visitors were spending less than in previous years."

Forecasts for the high season (December to April) were reasonably positive, although the loss of air seats out of the United States together with higher air fares could dampen demand. Island tourism entities are concerned that the price of oil having reached an

excess of \$90 a barrel could translate into higher costs for Aruba's airline partners who would then pass this on to their passengers.

The AHATA CEO said that consumer confidence was still low in our major North American and European markets but opportunities for growth did exist in Brazil, Argentina, Colombia and other Latin American countries, which appear to have suffered less from the global financial situation. "Because of the weakness in our primary markets, businesses on Aruba that rely on tourism may find it difficult to charge higher prices; this is a particular concern when the cost of doing business continues to rise."

Given these challenges, Mr. Hepple welcomed the fact that a new "independent" Aruba Tourism Authority would be coming into existence early in 2011, with an enhanced marketing budget, new management, and a joint public/private Board to guide its marketing efforts. The CEO said that this new initiative would go a long way towards making Aruba more competitive and achieving its primary goal of growing revenues from tourism.

Heavy flooding in Europe



Picture above shows two benches submerged in the floods of the Main river in Frankfurt, western Germany. At least four people were feared dead in Germany after several days of floods in large parts of the country, authorities said. Photo below shows the Oise river flooding fields near Condren, northern France, as it reaches the alert level it had in December 1993. Water level rises in this French region following heavy rain. In the Netherlands and Belgium, there has also been widespread flooding because of the thaw and high water level in rivers. (AFP PHOTO)

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

New Queensland town braces for floods

BRISBANE, Australia (AFP) - Anxious residents of the latest Queensland town to face surging flood waters early today were watching local river defences, as Brisbane began to clean-up after the deluge which ripped through the city.

Goondiwindi, a town of 6,000 west of Brisbane, braced for flood waters to test river levees, with the Macintyre River expected to reach record levels early this morning.

In its latest flood warning the Bureau of Meteorology upgraded the threat to the town, saying waters will rise above the record 1996 peak of 10.6 meters on this morning.

The warning prompted the precautionary evacuation of hospitals and nursing homes, but Goondiwindi mayor Graeme Scheu said he was confident the town's flood levees would hold.

The clean-up was already

under way in Brisbane, Australia's third-largest city, after water tore through the city, killing a 24-year-old man, submerging whole suburbs and turning property and infrastructure into debris.

Although the deluge failed to rise as high as predicted, at least 30,000 properties were swamped by muddy floodwaters, prompting Queensland's state premier Anna Bligh to describe the scene as a "war zone".

The same weather system which has brought destruction to Queensland was set to sweep south bringing heavy rain and powerful gusts of wind to Victoria state, according to a State Emergency Service warning.

Floodwaters blamed on the La Niña weather phenomenon have turned an area twice the size of Texas into a disaster zone, crippling coal exports and tourism in the "Sunshine State" famous for the Great Barrier Reef.

US report: Freedom in decline worldwide

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Global freedom declined for a fifth straight year in 2010 as authoritarian regimes dug in worldwide and crime and unrest plagued democracies like Mexico, a US watchdog said yesterday.

In "Freedom in the World 2011" the Washington-based Freedom House said it had documented the longest continuous period of decline since it began compiling the annual index nearly 40 years ago.

"A total of 25 countries showed significant declines in 2010, more than double the 11 countries exhibiting noteworthy gains," the group said.

"Authoritarian regimes like those in China, Egypt, Iran, Russia, and Venezuela continued to step up repressive measures with little significant resistance from the democratic world," it said.

The report classifies countries as free, partly free or not

free based on individuals' ability to exercise political and civil rights, taking into account political systems and other factors like war and crime.

Mexico, which along with the Ukraine, Djibouti and Ethiopia saw its status decline, moved from free to partly free "as a result of the government's inability to stem the tide of violence by drug-trafficking groups," it said.

More than 30,000 people have been killed in drug-related violence in Mexico since 2006, when the newly-elected President Felipe Calderon launched a massive crackdown on drug cartels.

The Ukraine's demotion, also from free to partly free, owed to "deteriorating levels of press freedom, instances of election fraud and growing politicization of the judiciary," the Freedom House report said.

The Middle East and North

Africa continued to lead the world in lack of freedom following a "multi-year decline from an already-low democratic baseline," the group said.

"This should be a wake-up call for all of the world's democracies," said Freedom House director David Kramer, who served as assistant secretary of state for democracy and human rights under former president George W. Bush.

"Our adversaries are not just engaging in widespread repression, they are doing so with unprecedented aggressiveness and self-confidence, and the democratic community is not rising to the challenge."

The number of countries designated as free in 2010 stands at 87, two fewer than the previous year, and represents 45 percent of the world's 194 countries and 43 percent of its population, according to the index.

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Europeans warn nationals to avoid Tunisia

BERLIN, Germany (AFP) - European countries began warning their citizens yesterday not to visit Tunisia amid increasing concern about deadly protests shaking the popular north African holiday destination.

German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle said senior European Union diplomats would be meeting today at Berlin's suggestion to discuss the situation, as he called for an end to attacks on demonstrators.

He advised Germans to put off any non-essential trips to Tunisia, echoing similar calls made Thursday by the Netherlands and Portugal.



TERESÓPOLIS, Brazil -- A woman observes the wreckage caused by mudslides and flooding in Teresopolis, some 100 km from downtown Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Rescuers searched through layers of mud yesterday for survivors and bodies after freakishly heavy rains caused landslides and torrents to slice through three towns near Rio de Janeiro, killing at least 356 people. (AFP PHOTO)



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Minister Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar receives Chinese Ambassador to the Netherlands



On Wednesday morning, January 12, Aruba's Minister of Economic & Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, received a courtesy visit from the Chinese Ambassador to the Netherlands, Mr. Xing Zhao, who is visiting Aruba. Mr. Xing Zhao was accompanied by a Chinese Embassy representative in The Hague, Mr. Ying Huang. They exchanged some very interesting ideas with Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar during their brief discussion. Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar extended a warm welcome to the two dignitaries and wished them a pleasant and enlightening stay on our island.

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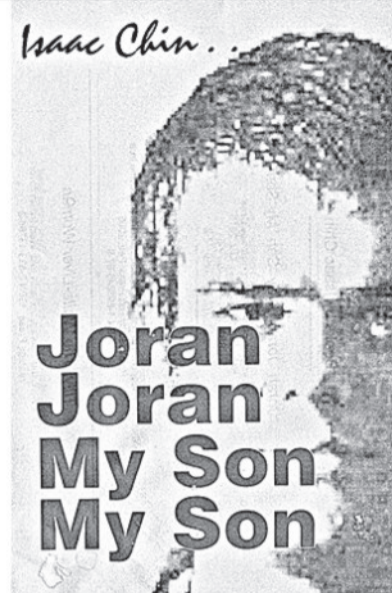
Isaac Chin examines Joran van de Slood; his personal history, his surroundings. Following up on his earlier book, *The Natalee Holloway Case*, Chin gives a complete background of the places, the times, and the actors, debunks the more fanciful theories, and offers a scenario of his own.

Chin, a longtime resident of Aruba, saw with dismay the circus develop... and notes that there is yet no proof that Joran van der Slood murdered Natalee Holloway or Stephany Flores, or anyone else. Chin paints a picture of a psychologically complicated manchild, intelligent, reckless, attractive to women, a habitual liar. Joran, caught with his pants down, so to speak, has been accused, tried in the court of public opinion, and even issued a guilty plea, later retracted. But until proven guilty, Joran, like any other accused, should be given the benefit of the doubt on the strength of the rule, "innocent until proven guilty."

Joran, Joran; My Son, My Son offers a detailed timeline of the locations, the people involved, and the Aruba justice system. Chin pulls no punches... he knows the place and the people.

This is Isaac Joseph Chin's sixth book. *Where is Choy?* An autobiography, *Tilly the White-Liver Woman: Stories of the Caribbean*, and *The Natalee Holloway Case* are also available at:

Loft Press. www.LoftPress.com



Radical Changes Needed to Rescue Public Transport System (Arubus) according to Deloitte's accounting firm

ORANJESTAD -- Minister Otmar Oduber, who also has public transport in his portfolio, has on more than one occasion expressed that the Arubus Company is practically bankrupt. Were it not for government subsidy the company should have closed its doors a long time ago.

It was clear from reports submitted in 2007 and by PriceWaterHouse&Coopers in 2008.

The 2008 report by Price-WaterHouse&Coopers showed that the situation would continue to deteriorate further in 2009 and in 2010. They offered several options that the company could take to improve the ailing financial situation of Arubus. But, regrettably, the previous minister of transport nor the previous Supervisory Board of Arubus gave no attention to the situation, despite several correspondence from the management concerning their concerns.

As a result of not taking any action to remedy the situation, the company's financial situation worsened and since July 2009 Arubus was unable to make payments to none other than their BBO payments and the social dues. Notwithstanding that the introduction of the BBO (form of sales tax) in 2007 had a negative effect on the company. The BBO created additional expenses of 142,000 florins per year, while other costs also increased to the tune of between 3 and 6%. The increase of gasoline prices in 2008 was yet another cause for the deterioration of Arubus.

Another factor which played a major role in the deterioration was the increase of salaries which reached a total of 35.6% within a span of 10



years.

At the onset of the change of government, Oduber, made the decision to attend to the Arubus situation immediately to research the possibility to rescue Arubus and turn it into a solvent company. Together with a new supervisory board they set out to devise a plan to restructure the company. In this context they came to an agreement that there would be no more hiring and no salary adjustments for the next three years. Currently they are implementing the recommendations which surfaced from the quick scan which took place in Arubus recently.

Efforts are being made to improve the company's effi-

ciency and to reduce employee costs as well as do a restructuring of the company.

One other change will be to adapt the articles of the company's formal document to allow the company more possibility for commercial activities to generate more income.

These are only some of the changes on the agenda for discussion. One thing is certain, a radical change is necessary to salvage Arubus, which is also a matter arising from the last Deloitte report. The minister and the new Supervisory Board are intent on taking the necessary steps as soon as possible to try and save our public transport system.

The Netherlands on the verge of flu epidemic

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands -- The Netherlands is on the verge of a flu epidemic following sharp rise in suspected cases since the New Year, according to health service research institute Nivel.

Nivel says there are now 87 people per 100,000 suffering flu-like symptoms, up from 36

a week ago. If the figure tops 51 per 100,000 for more than two weeks, it is officially an epidemic.

In two-thirds of cases, the flu is thought to be H1N1, or swine flu. By last week, 52 people had been hospitalised with swine flu and three had died.



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The Muffin Sandwich features a fresh grilled sausage patty, scrambled eggs and cheese on a toasted English muffin with choice of beverage and an order of hash brown potatoes. The BK Breakfast Bowl is a mélange of eggs, sausage, sweet red bell pepper, mild jalapeños, sautéed onions and potatoes garnished with 3 cheeses, for a memorable balanced breakfast treat, accompanied by hash browns and the breakfast beverage of your choosing.

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by Rosalie Klein

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CARNIVAL SCHEDULE

Main Events 2011

FRI, JAN 14.	Carnaval Happy Hour Place: pending
SAT. JAN. 15	Youth Salsa Dance Contest Place: pending
SUN. JAN. 16 6:30 P.M.	Aruba's Children -, Youth and Adult Prince and Pancho Election Place: Aruba Entertainment Center
WED. JAN 9 6 - 9 P.M	Sign-up happening Tumba Festival 41 Place: Balashi Garden
FRI. JAN. 21	Carnaval Happy Hour Place: pending
SAT. JAN 22 6:30 P.M.	Aruba's Children and Youth Calypso & Roadmarch Contest 2011 Place : Joe Laveist Sportpark
SUN. JAN 23 6 - 10 P.M.	Sign-up happening Calypso & Roadmarch Contest 2011 Place : Joe Laveist Sportpark

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Workshop for kids at Ateliers '89



Starting January 2011, Ateliers '89 is offering workshops for children from 8 years and older. Contemporary artist and director of the Ateliers '89, Elvis López will give lessons in painting and sculpture. During the workshops he pays a lot of attention to the art-viewing. The exhibitions held at the Ateliers '89 are often visited by the participants self, not only to learn how to see an art piece but also how to discuss it. Other exhibitions on the island will also be visited, viewed and criticized under the leadership of Elvis López himself.

The passion of Mr. López can be seen back through his upmost crazy way of teaching. He is certain that the handling of the third dimension and the

ability to paint forms and depth are a Must for a learning child, instead of just painting a flat shape. "BUT, he says, if this is achieved, you got to let children loose so they can experiment on their own and expand and develop their talents."

The workshops are on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m.

For smaller children there are workshops from Monday to Friday 4 to 6 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon, under the guidance of Mrs. Miriam de L'isle.

Interested persons can apply at Atelier '89, Dominicanssestraat 34, Oranjestad, Aruba. Tel. 588 5776 or 565 4613

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"Give art a valuable place in your life." Information about Simson now also on facebook

On the social network facebook there is now also information available about the versatile artist Waldy Simson.

On the info section of the page there is general information about, poetry, music, ceramics, tiffany, paintings, papercuttings, engraving and the art of mosaic, disciplines which Simson is actively practicing. One can also find information about artistic projects by Simson and the poem Hope which Simson has dedicated to South African freedom fighter Nelson Mandela.

On the photo section of the page there are pictures of art works from the different disciplines that Simson is practicing.

Reactions on the page can be sent to waldysimson@hotmail.com and artisit@live.com.



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Sci-Tech

BlackBerry announces answer to India security fear

NEW DELHI (AFP) – The Canadian maker of BlackBerry said Thursday it had found a way out of an ongoing standoff in India over allowing security agencies access to the smartphone's encrypted messaging service.

However, the solution did not include providing access to corporate e-mail services, Research In Motion (RIM) said in a statement.

India had given RIM until January 31 to come up with a solution that would permit its intelligence agencies to monitor encrypted data -- amid concerns in New Delhi that militants may use the services to plan and carry out attacks.

In its statement, RIM said its revised access capability "meets the standard required by the government of India for all consumer messaging services".

Indian agencies will now be able to monitor the BlackBerry's messenger and public email services, but not corporate emails, the statement added.

RIM's representatives have met home and telecommunications ministry officials repeatedly in an effort to



end a three-year deadlock over the issue.

Banning the service would create disruption for India's corporations, which widely use the BlackBerry. The smartphone has 1.1 million users in India, including many non-corporate clients.

Ministry officials in New Delhi were not available to comment on the RIM announcement.

India's minister of state for communications Sachin Pilot had told parliament last month that no answer to the

standoff had been found.

The January 31 date was the third time that the government has extended the deadline for BlackBerry to meet its requirements.

In October, the United Arab Emirates withdrew a threatened ban on BlackBerry services after saying they had been brought into compliance with the Gulf state's regulatory framework, though it did not provide details of the changes.

India has also told Google and Skype that they must set up servers in the country to allow law enforcers to screen traffic, as the country widens its security offensive on Internet communications firms.

BlackBerry has become a global market leader in the smartphone sector thanks to its heavy encryption, and analysts say any compromise with the Indian government could damage its popularity with its high-profile clientele.

RIM said Monday it would start filtering web services in Indonesia after the mainly Muslim country threatened to restrict or block the company's domestic services to prevent access to Internet pornography.

German firm develops Internet eraser for photos

BERLIN (AFP) – A German firm is poised to launch software allowing users to have photos uploaded to websites such as Facebook, MySpace and Flickr erased automatically after a certain time, its head said Wednesday.

The software should prevent the increasingly frequent occurrence of someone being refused a job or running into other embarrassing difficulties after posting a photo that maybe should have been kept private.

Before the user posts the photo, he or she drags it into the programme which assigns it an electronic key that is valid for a limited time pe-

riod, said Michael Backes, founder of X-Pire.

If someone wishes to view that photo later, the server checks whether the photo has "expired" and blocks it from being displayed if its time is up.

Internet surfers already have the power to delete photos from social networking websites like Facebook, but "experience shows that they don't get round to it," Backes said.

"Most Facebook users, for example, are passive users. They go on, they put on a lot of private information and almost never come back on or they forget their password," he said.

"The software is not designed for people who understand how to protect their data but rather for the huge mass of people who want to solve the problem at its core and not to have to think about it any more," added Backes.

The software will be available "in the next few days" and will cost two euros (2.61 dollars) per month, he added.

However, it will not protect cautious users against third parties downloading their pictures and saving them.

"When people put photos on line, it's so they can be seen... our software is not a panacea, not absolute protection," he said.

Russia to reopen space tourism in 2013: company

MOSCOW (AFP) – Russia will reopen its Soyuz space ships to paying tourists in 2013 after a hiatus since 2009, the US-based company that organises the trips with Russia's space agency said Wednesday.

From 2013, three space tourists per year will be able to book seats on Soyuz flights to the International Space Sta-

tion (ISS), the Virginia-based company, Space Adventures, said in a statement.

The company has signed an agreement with the Russian space agency and Energia, the state-owned company that designs the Soyuz capsule, to offer the commercial flights, it said.

It quoted the president of

Energia, Vitaly Lopota, as saying that: "We are very pleased to continue space tourism."

Flights will become possible in 2013 when Russia plans to raise its production of Soyuz capsules from four to five per year, the company said, in a move that will allow it to increase the number of flights to five per year.



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2010 ties 2005 for warmest year on record: US



WASHINGTON (AFP) – Last year tied with 2005 as the warmest year on record for global surface temperature, US government scientists said in a report on Wednesday that offered the latest data on climate change.

The Earth in 2010 experienced temperatures higher than the 20th century average for the 34th year in a row, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said.

Overall, 2010 and 2005 were 1.12 degrees Fahrenheit (0.62 Celsius) above the 20th century average when taking a combination of land and water surface temperatures across the world, it said.

Those two years were also the highest in temperature since record-keeping began in 1880.

"If the warming trend continues, as is expected, if greenhouse gases continue to increase, the 2010 record will not stand for long," said James Hansen, the director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS).

Last year was the wettest on record, NOAA said citing Global Historical Climatology Network which made the calculation based on global average precipitation, even though regional patterns varied widely.

When it came to hurricanes and storms, the Pacific Ocean saw the fewest number of hurricanes and named storms, three and seven respectively, since the 1960s.

But the Atlantic Ocean told a different story, with 12 hurricanes and 19 named storms, which include tropical storms and depressions, marking the second highest number of hurricanes on record and third highest for storms.

The analysis also tracked weather changes that contributed to massive floods in Pakistan and a heat wave in Russia, saying an "unusually strong jet stream" from June to August was to blame.

"The jet stream remained locked in place for weeks, bringing an unprecedented two-month heat wave to Russia and contributing to devastating floods in Pakistan at the end of July," it said.

Expert Bob Ward at the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment at London School of Economics and Political Science said the US data shows proof of climate change.

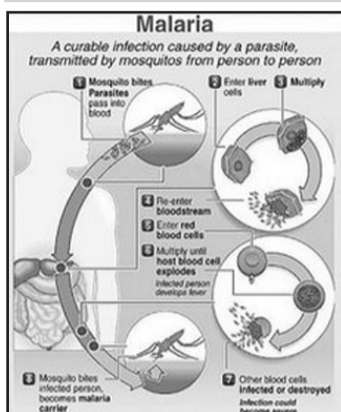
"These new figures show unequivocally that the Earth is warming and its temperature is at record levels," Ward said.

Last year's data "also showed that the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere had reached 390 parts per million, its highest level for at least 800,000 years and almost 40 per cent higher than the level before the start of the Industrial Revolution when humans started to burn fossil fuels in increasing amounts," he said.

"The evidence is overwhelming that human activities are driving climate change."

Health & Living

WHO launches plan to halt malaria drug resistance



GENEVA, Switzerland (AFP) – The World Health Organisation this week launched a global plan to halt the spread of resistance to artemisinin, a

key compound of new malaria drugs, warning that not acting would be "catastrophic."

"It is no exaggeration for me to say that the consequences of widespread resistance to artemisinins would be catastrophic," said Margaret Chan, director-general of the UN health agency.

Resistance has emerged in areas on the Cambodia-Thailand border, while a spread to other areas in Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam is suspected.

In its new action plan, the WHO said more than 175 million dollars in funding would

be required for research and to contain the resistance in these areas.

It also urged countries to step up surveillance of drug resistance, saying that in 2010, less than half -- 31 of 75 -- of countries, were routinely conducting tests on the efficacy of malaria drugs.

"The emergence of artemisinin resistance has been a wake-up call. It gives us another compelling reason to step up existing control measures with the greatest sense of urgency," said Chan.

Australia steels for disease surge after floods

BRISBANE, Australia (AFP) – Australian medical officials braced this week for rampant disease in the country's swamped northeast, with filthy floodwaters harbouring sewage, dead animals and dangerous debris.

Dozens of towns have been inundated including large areas of Brisbane, Australia's third-largest city, in flooding across an area twice the size of Texas, or France and Germany combined.

More than 100,000 Brisbane homes were without power and fresh water supplies had been cut or compromised in some areas, while raw sewage spilled into waterways from submerged homes across the state of Queensland.

"We anticipate the number of patients with infections to swell as food, water and sanitation continue to be compromised," the Australian Medical Association (AMA) warned.

"Infections may vary from ingestion varieties including gastroenteritis and parasitic infestations causing vomiting, diarrhoea, and abdominal pains to systemic infections."

Mosquito-borne diseases were also expected to surge as the insects multiply in the stagnant waters, and any cut exposed to the murky water should be treated with antiseptic and closely monitored, AMA Queensland president Gino Pecoraro said.

"People should avoid wading in even shallow water as it may be contaminated. If you must enter shallow floodwaters wear solid boots for protection," Pecoraro said, urging people to seek medical advice and a tetanus shot for more se-



rious injuries.

Food spoiled due to the widespread power cuts was another crucial health risk, and Pecoraro said it was also vital to acknowledge the psychological trauma brought by the disaster and seek help.

"This catastrophic event will impact our health system for many months and potentially years to come," he said.

"We anticipate the mounting pressure on local hospitals will be overwhelming."

ANUNCIO PUBLICO



TA ANUNCIA

rebaho di invoerrecht
riba diferente categoria
di vehiculo di motor
entrante luna di
Januari 2011



tur rebaho ta aplicabel
riba vehiculonan
importa



Pabien
na Gobierno di Aruba
pa un decision aserta
na beneficio di un y tur

Pa mas informacion tocante prijsnan riba vehiculo nobo
pasa na bo Cardealer preferi

US cancer costs to leap by 2020

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Over the next 10 years, the cost of treating cancer in the United States is expected to leap 27 percent, in part because of the growing population of elderly Americans, said a US study released.

The changes are anticipated even though cancer incidence has been on the decline because of earlier diagnoses and improved survival rates among cancer patients, said the study in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

Medical expenditures on cancer will reach 158 billion dollars in 2020, a boost of 27 percent over 2010, and could go as high as 207 billion if treatment costs continue to rise, said the research by the government's National Institutes of Health.

"The rising costs of cancer care illustrate how important it is for us to advance the science of cancer prevention and treatment to ensure that we're using the most effective approaches," said Robert Croyle, director of Cancer Control and Population Sciences at the National Cancer Institute.

"This is especially important for elderly cancer patients with other complex health problems."

Since cancer tends to affect

more people over age 65, a growth in that sector of the population is a major reason why costs are anticipated to rise.

The number of elderly people in the United States is forecast to go from 40 million in 2009 to 70 million in 2030, the researchers said.

But the costs of caring for cancer have also risen in combination with medical breakthroughs that keep people alive for longer periods.

"If cancer incidence and survival rates remain stable, the number of cancer survivors in 2020 will increase by 31 percent, to about 18.1 million," said the study which appears in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

Last year, cancer costs totaled 127.6 billion dollars, said the study.

The highest costs were associated with breast cancer at 16.5 billion dollars, followed by colorectal cancer at 14 billion dollars, then lymphoma, lung cancer and prostate cancer each costing 12 billion dollars annually.

Every year about half a million people in the United States die of cancer, which causes one in four deaths and is the second leading cause of death after heart disease.



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COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



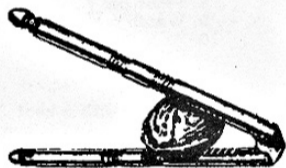
CALVIN and HOBBS



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD



NUTTY

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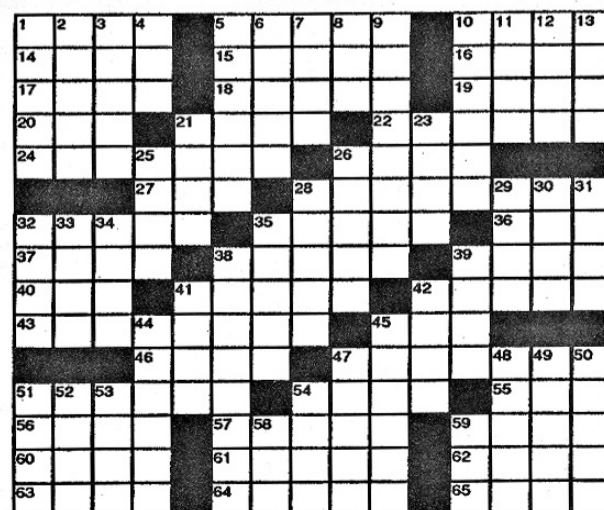
Here is a puzzle with more than the expected crossword challenge—and rewards. Each clue involves a pun or some form of nuttiness. Look out for traps! With a little practice, you will soon catch on to these tricky clues and enjoy the extra challenge.

ACROSS

1. Punch the confused lugs
5. Sends the boys?
10. He's not calm, he's happy
14. Raced up the craggy height
15. In the smart set
16. They'll give you a run for your money
17. Knowledge provides one, in the end
18. Chef's scope
19. Some make dough with dough and this
20. You do it all the time
21. Feather duster, at times
22. A member of the cloth
24. Come off it
26. It's a foot long and a foot wide
27. Like a wing
28. One of these equals a pair
32. Divide and vamoose
35. It's sensed and makes cents
36. Tip over
37. Birdbrain
38. This cant be proper English
39. Pass Spanish
40. Unshared share
41. Tire aid
42. It's mint to brighten the outlook
43. Little stinkers
45. Be cagey?
46. Source of an Elsinore snore
47. Rub the right way
51. Make little of
54. Tree house
55. Prohibit a saloon
56. Word from the wise
57. Thoughtful works
59. "... star bright ..."
60. It's too too
61. Not Tom, Dick, or Harry
62. They're just in time for the holidays
63. Precious creature
64. Short escorts for ladies
65. Right before our eyes, it's showy

DOWN

1. Home of the free
2. House hunting
3. Yens, to visit Big Sur, e.g.
4. Golly, what a start!
5. Spot with lots of slots for yachts
6. Prized item, almost in a word
7. Touch terra firma
8. Work as a unit
9. Angry at the watched pot
10. See to the horse, and others
11. Lothario's gain, Borg's loss
12. In the Red?
13. Darn it!
21. Gird for a wallop
23. One the party poops
25. The Nod got him
26. A bit of acting observed
28. Heal marks
29. Palo Alto gem
30. Stand for it
31. Cable cutter
32. Give the cheeky one a hand
33. Giants' old stomping Grounds
34. Oh, and the els sit idle
35. Chalk one up for education
38. Tanning hide
39. Subjects of Cerfdom
41. Look over the tins
42. Funny business
44. Source of the blue streak
45. Continental Divide divisions
47. Had intentions
48. It's all over
49. It drives home judicious points
50. Get the lead out?
51. Roeboat's quarry
52. Doughnut ingredient
53. Confused Eros and stood
54. Broadway's leading light
58. The buck stops here
59. Catchy term



Note to Solvers: This Crossword does not have hints such as "2 wds." and "hyph."

BOTICA

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January 8 -15

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 Numbers

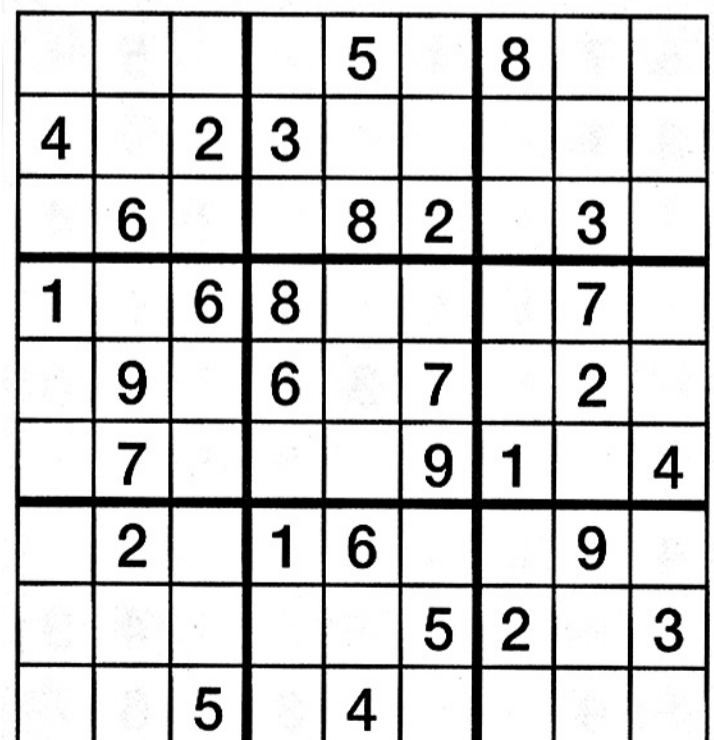
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

7	1	9	8	4	2	5	3	6
3	8	2	5	6	7	1	4	9
5	6	4	3	9	1	2	7	8
4	9	1	6	3	5	8	7	2
8	2	5	7	1	9	4	6	3
6	7	3	4	2	8	9	5	1
1	3	7	2	8	4	6	9	5
9	5	6	1	7	3	2	8	4
2	4	8	9	5	6	3	1	7

row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
 A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
 In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Finance

US jobless claims rise more than expected

WASHINGTON (AFP) – New US claims for unemployment benefits rose more than expected last week, up 35,000 from the week before, labor department figures showed.

Jobless claims rose substan-

tially to 445,000 in the week ending January 8. Economists had expected claims to hit just 415,000.

Claims rose in Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York and Wisconsin.

Spanish bond sale eases bailout fears

MADRID (AFP) – A successful Spanish bond sale eased market fears of an emergency bailout that would rock the entire eurozone, but analysts warned it did not signal an end to the country's debt woes.

Spain proved it can tap the financial markets for money, selling its maximum target of 3.0 billion euros (\$3.9 billion) in five-year bonds with demand outstripping supply by two-to-one.

The Treasury forked out an average interest rate of 4.542 percent to lure investors, a competitive rate when compared to this week's market close of 4.767 percent.

Nevertheless, it was sharply up from the 3.576 percent Spain paid at the last year five-year bond auction on November 4, a few weeks before debt-stricken Ireland was forced to seek an EU-International Monetary Fund bailout.

BlackBerry announces answer to India security fear

NEW DELHI (AFP) – The Canadian maker of BlackBerry said it had found a way out of an ongoing standoff in India over allowing security agencies access to the smartphone's encrypted messaging service.

However, the solution did not include providing access to corporate e-mail services, Research In Motion (RIM) said in a statement.

India had given RIM until January 31 to come up with a solution that would permit its intelligence agencies to monitor encrypted data -- amid concerns in New Delhi that militants may use the services to plan and carry out attacks.

In its statement, RIM said its revised access capability "meets the standard required by the government of India for all consumer messaging services".

Indian agencies will now be able to monitor the BlackBerry's messenger and public email services, but not corporate emails, the statement added.

RIM's representatives have met home and telecommunications ministry officials repeatedly in an effort to end a three-year deadlock over the issue.

Banning the service would create disruption for India's corporations, which widely use the BlackBerry. The smartphone has 1.1 million users in India, including many non-corporate clients.

Ministry officials in New Delhi were not available to comment on the RIM announcement. The January 31 date was the third time that the government has extended the deadline for BlackBerry to meet its requirements.

France to act with Germany for euro



LONDON (AFP) – France and Germany are ready "to do everything, absolutely everything" to ensure the stability of the eurozone, French Prime Minister Francois Fillon said in a speech in London.

"Of this there must never be any doubt: euro area states, and especially France and Germany, are ready to do everything, absolutely everything, to ensure the euro area's stability," Fillon told business leaders.

He was speaking at the start of his first official visit to Britain since he became prime minister in 2007, during which he will hold talks with Prime Minister David Cameron and

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg.

Fillon added: "The euro area is Europe's monetary heart, and no one should have any doubt about the determination of the whole European Union to safeguard it. It's an absolute political and economic priority."

His comments come amid investor unease that the debt crisis that forced multi-billion-euro bailouts of Greece and Ireland last year could spread to Portugal, and possibly even to bigger economies such as Spain, Belgium and Italy.

After pulling off a successful bond sale this week worth 1.25 billion euros (1.6 billion dollars), Portugal said it had passed a key test of its credit standing on the international markets.

But analysts were cautious, arguing that a bailout remains a real possibility.

Spain succeeded on in reaching its maximum 3.0-billion-euro target in a five-year

bond sale, although it paid sharply higher rates than in the last such auction in November.

In an interview with The Times newspaper ahead of his one-day visit, Fillon said he would be urging Cameron to back deeper European integration to save the euro or risk disaster in his own economy if the currency fails. "I want to tell you that, throughout this crisis, the British authorities have been solid partners, respecting our differences," he said.

He added that Britain "has played her part in the joint effort, agreeing to a limited revision of the Treaty and contributing to the recent emergency plans -- I'm thinking particularly of Ireland."

Although Britain has not adopted the single European currency, it is a major contributor to the International Monetary Fund-European Union bailout of debt-racked Ireland, which is a eurozone member.

Norway slashes oil reserve estimates

OSLO (AFP) – Norway, one of the world's leading exporters of oil and gas, slashed its oil reserve estimates after disappointing drilling results, while production dropped 10 percent in 2010 on a yearly basis.

The estimated undiscovered -- or unproven -- reserves have fallen 21 percent from 3.3 to 2.6 billion standard cubic metres of oil equivalent, or from 20.8 billion barrels of oil equivalent (boe) to 16.4 billion boe, compared with 2006, the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate (NPD) said in its annual review.

Proven reserves have meanwhile slumped from 5.2 to 4.8 billion standard cubic metres of oil equivalent, it added.

"Production is declining in spite of vigorous (prospecting) activity. Not enough new reserves are found to offset current oil and gas production," the NPD said.

The NPD said that the discovery of proven reserves holding some 400 million standard cubic metres of oil equivalent over the past five years had contributed to the downward revision.

But the drop is also linked to "disappointing drilling re-



A gas processing plant in Kaarstoe, Norway in 2010

sults" in deep-water areas of the Norwegian Sea considered to be representative of the Scandinavian country's continental shelf reserves, it said.

Norway's reserve estimates do not include potential fields around its Arctic Jan Mayen island, where prospecting has yet to be approved, nor a Barents Sea section handed to Norway in a maritime border agreement with Russia last year that is awaiting parliamentary ratification in both countries. The latter especially is believed to hold vast oil and gas reserves.

Norway's actual oil production is also on a downward slope, the directorate's figures showed.

Last year, the country pumped up an average of 1.8 million barrels per day, down

10 percent from 2009, the NPD said.

NPD chief Bente Nyland on called on oil companies to develop new technologies to allow them to increase their resource recovery rate from oil and gas fields from today's level of below 50 percent.

Norwegian oil companies would invest a record 150 billion kroner (nearly 20 billion euros, 25 billion dollars) this year, Nyland said.

Norway's output of natural gas will offset the decline in oil production, accounting for 51 percent of sales in the sector by 2015 from 46 percent last year, the NPD said.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

H	O	S	S	B	I	D	H	O	T	D	O	L	E
E	M	I	T	A	D	E	F	R	E	A	R	E	A
T	I	D	E	D	A	N	G	L	E	D	T	A	N
S	T	E	E	P	S	O	P	T	E	N	S	E	
L	E	G	R	U	E	A	R	E	C	O	W		
A	T	E	T	E	E	T	H		F	I	T	H	U
W	A	S	T	E		R	O	V	E	D		F	A
T	O	D		D	I	N	A	R		G	A	P	
S	T	U	N		C	A	M	E	L		A	N	T
A	I	R		B	A	R		D	E	M	O	N	E
D	E	E		A	G	E		A	D	D		R	E
S	M	E	L	T		N	I	L		R	A	S	P
L	I	M	A		S	P	E	E	D	E	R		N
A	L	U	M		L	O		E	V	A		T	U
M	E	S	A		Y	E	N		R	E	P		S

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers,

airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for

homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee.



parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All

Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



Fabulous Night for ladies every Thursday at Milano Restaurant



A three course dinner for only \$35, all night long martinis for only \$5 and a 2 for one special from 10 to 11 p.m. These are the offers at Milano's Fabulous Night for all ladies visiting the establishment.

The menu is a creation of Chef Abase, based on the different taste of today's women in mind. Women of today are very demanding so the menu has a lot of different flavors and is low in calories, in other words there a great variation of choices.

Fabulous Night was created especially for the ladies. On this day they can treat themselves to a nice outing, meet their friends and enjoy a moment of reprieve from their daily routine. Dinner starts from from 5:30 until 11:00 p.m.

So fabulous woman, if you want to spend a nice time with your friends and colleagues go to Milano's Fabulous Night. Just call 586707 for a reservation and spent a fabulous Thursday night.



BACK THEN

There is a question that needs to be answered: Is there an Aruban gene for dancing? This is serious.

The littlest ones dance before they walk. As soon as they can stand, their arms and legs are moving to the music. The oldest are the oldest because they have been dancing all their lives.

Migrations of humans move across borders such as in Europe, Asia and Africa and bring with them their own characteristics. That doesn't mean they can dance. They can stomp and clomp and shake and wiggle.

But is that dancing? No, it is just imitative.

Aruba has no borders, being just a speck in the sea on the map of the world. When the merengue, which originated in Santo Domingo, as the country was called then, it was and still is an elegant, floor-sweeping ballroom dance.

When it became popular in the United States in the 70's it was taught as the pulsing, jumping double-time dance. American tourists dancing "their" version here to familiar music watched Arubans floating around the floor. They left the dance floor in droves, ogled openly and applauded mightily.

When the refinery opened in the late 1920's, the Americans brought in workers from the British

West Indies because they spoke English. 5 minutes later, the Arubans spoke English; the American kind and the West Indian version as well. The islanders brought calypso with them which appealed greatly to the locals not only for the music and the movements but also to the Aruban sense of humor. English lyrics were soon added to by waves of Papiamentu "stories" and political comments. The dance gene again took over and made it



Oslin and Janice founded the Pachanga dance school to teach salsa and other Latin dances.

even better.

When the Americana hotel (now the Occidental Grand) opened, the first group they brought in for the nightclub was a calypso band. On opening night, in business suit and tie, the leader explained care-



fully to what he thought was an American audience what calypso was. After a few tunes, he asked if anyone would like to dance. A mob

of Arubans got up, swarmed the floor and stunned the leader who stood mouth agape, staring. He then asked if anyone would like to sing; an Aruban took the floor and the mike and instructed the band to play a certain tune

much to the delight of the audience.

The late, great and still lamented Mario Albus was the epitome of the Aruban dancer. Whenever he appeared at a

party or at a dance venue, wives and girlfriend left their husbands and boy friends to dance with Mario. He appeared at a tourism trade show in Boston representing Aruba and drew crowds whenever he danced. Other islands representatives asked him to dance for them to their music; he could do it all. Arubans waited breathlessly for his appearance in the Grand Carnival Parade; his elaborate award-winning road piece was more than fabulous and despite its size he danced eloquently. He is still missed.

And then Oslin met Janice and their magic created the Salsa/Pachanga school to teach salsa and other Latin dances. Go www.pachangaaruba.com and read all about it. One of the highlights of their successful dancing was winning the International Dance Organization (I.D.O.) World Salsa Championship just 2 years after they met; and at which event the legendary mambo and salsa king Eddie Torres was one of the judges.

Is there an Aruban gene for dancing?



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Russian spy Anna Chapman to host TV show



MOSCOW, Russia (AFP) — The red-headed Russian spy Anna Chapman will add to her colourful portfolio by presenting a weekly television show about mysterious phenomena, a television channel spokeswoman said.

Chapman will host a weekly show called "Secrets of the World with Anna Chapman" on Ren TV, a channel known for its independent political reporting, a spokesman for the channel, Marina Volodina, told AFP.

The show will be experimental and will investigate the "most mysterious phenomena of the modern world," Volodina said, but added that the channel would not reveal any details until the first show airs on January 21.

Since being extradited from the United States in a high-profile spy swap in July last year, Chapman has made attention-grabbing public appearances, posing in underwear for a men's magazine and waving off Russian cosmonauts.

In December she gave her first television interview to state-owned Channel One television, appearing on a popular talk show along with her mother and sister, although she declined to speak about her espionage activities.

She also acted in a comedy spoof of a famous Soviet spy

series that was aired on New Year's Eve on the same channel, where she played the role of the companion of an undercover Soviet spy in Germany during World War II.

Ren TV is majority owned by National Media Group, which also controls the pro-Kremlin Izvestia newspaper, but its news coverage is known for giving air time to opposition figures not shown on state channels.

In December Chapman joined pro-Kremlin youth group Molodaya Gvardiya, or Young Guard, becoming a figurehead for the movement that is part of Russia's ruling party United Russia, led by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

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Clijsters to play Li in Sydney final



SYDNEY (AFP) - Two-time champion Kim Clijsters will play China's Li Na in the final of the Sydney International after a marathon three-set victory on Thursday.

Clijsters struggled early before storming home in a final set tiebreaker to overcome unseeded Russian Alisa Kleybanova, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/1) in 2hr 39min.

The Belgian third seed will now take on Li, who earlier wore down Serbian qualifier Bojana Jovanovski 7-6 (7/5), 6-3 in 1hr 40min.

Clijsters, 27, who won here in 2003 and 2007, will be bidding for her 41st career singles title in Friday's final, while Li is after her fourth WTA title.

"The last match I played against Alisa was a tough one and I lost to her, so I knew today was going to be tough," Clijsters said.

"She's a very unpredictable player. Her game is very tough to read and it makes it a little bit harder to react at the right time every time."

Kleybanova, who got past Slovakia's Dominika Cibulkova in Wednesday's quarter-final, began well, twice breaking Clijsters' serve to claim the opening set.

Clijsters jumped to a 3-0 lead early in the second set, but despite losing her service in the seventh game, she broke again to level the match.

Kleybanova, who needed two medical timeouts for back and foot troubles, kept the pressure on Clijsters and they traded two service breaks before the Belgian pulled away in the decisive tiebreaker.

"Li's always been a tough player," Clijsters said. "We in a way play a similar type of tennis. She also likes to play inside of the court, has a good backhand, likes to mix it up."

"We've had some tough matches, but also some matches that were filled with a lot of good tennis."

Li, 28, who will be defending her rankings points from last year's semi-final ap-

pearance at next week's Australian Open, was looking forward to her showdown with the world number three.

"I have nothing to lose because I have played her also many times," said Li, who trails 1-4 in their meetings.

"She's a great player, so I just have to show my best tennis on the court."

The Chinese number one trailed in her match after a service break in the third game.

But she traded four service breaks with Jovanovski before breaking the Serb's serve again in the 12th game to force a tiebreaker.

She won the tiebreaker 7-5 to take the set and controlled the last set with three more service breaks to wrap up victory.

"It wasn't easy," Li said. "I mean, she's young, she's playing well."

"At the beginning of the match I didn't know how she played because I have never seen her practise or play a match."

Li is in winning form ahead of the season's opening Grand Slam tournament in Melbourne after eliminating two-time major champion Svetlana Kuznetsova of Russia in the quarter-finals, and Australian Anastasia Rodionova and French qualifier Virginie Razzano in the earlier rounds.

Li became the first Chinese player to break into the world top 10 rankings after reaching the semi-finals of last year's Australian Open.

She is making her fourth appearance at the Sydney International and reached the 2007 semi-finals, where she lost to Clijsters in three sets.

Birdie bonanzas lift South Africans into lead

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Birdie bonanzas lifted South Africans Martin Maritz and Tyrone Mordt to the top of the leaderboard on 62 after the first round of the Joburg Open Thursday.

They claimed nine each and neither dropped a shot as the last of four tournaments on the South African leg of the Road to Dubai circuit began in pleasant, partly cloudy conditions.

Branden Grace carded a 63 and fellow South African Thomas Aiken and Frenchman Alexandre Kaleka a 64 each on a day when the par-71 Royal Johannesburg and Kensington east and west courses took a pounding.

Then comes a traffic jam with eight golfers shooting 65, 13 carding a 66 and 12 returning a 67 ahead of a week-end when thunderstorms threaten to disrupt play.

Defending champion and title favourite Charl Schwartzel of South Africa had to settle for a three-under 68 while a triple-birdie finish salvaged a 70 for Darren Clarke of Northern Ireland whose erratic round included a double bogey.

Maritz, playing the longer, more demanding east course late in the day, collected four birdies on his outward nine and another five coming back, including four in a row.

Mordt had halves of 31 on

the west course with five birdies picked up by the turn and the rest came in a four-hole blitz in the 1.3-million-euro tournament, the richest of the co-sanctioned events in South Africa.

"It was magical for me today and I am just over the moon," Maritz said after a round in which he found all but one green in regulation and his tee shot dropped on 10 of 14 fairways.

"A lot of the birdies I made today were either two putts or me hitting my approach shot very close to the pin," said the 33-year-old native of Pretoria now based in the American state of Oklahoma.

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Winter World Cup in Qatar raises Olympic quandary

LAUSANNE (AFP) - FIFA said on Thursday that talk of dates for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar was "speculative," as suggestions of holding the event in winter raised the prospect of a clash with the Winter Olympics.

The president of world football's governing body, Sepp Blatter, said last week that he expected that Qatar's cup would be held in the winter, after the emirate was controversially chosen for 2022 despite its searing summer heat.

While that would represent a historic shift for the world's most popular sports event, the idea also brought about the possibility for the first time of a clash with the Winter Olympics, which is held in the same year.

"There had never been any reference to a date," a FIFA spokesperson told AFP, while confirming that Blatter "expects that Qatar will be a winter World Cup."

"What he stressed is that first the request must be made by the organising committee of Qatar," the spokesperson added, insisting that talk about more specific timing was "speculative" for now.

Blatter has said the issue could be discussed at a FIFA executive committee meeting in March.

"Given that both the IOC (International Olympic Committee) and FIFA distribute

revenues across the global sport industry, there is a need to ensure that a winter world cup does not negatively impact on the ability to generate revenues," said Geoff Walters, of the Birbeck Sports Business Centre at London University.

While it was bidding, Qatar outlined high tech and innovative plans for cooled stadiums for the World Cup. Its organisers showed little sign of preparing to stage the event in the cooler winter climate in the Gulf.

So far, the Winter Olympics, which are staged every four years, have been held in the northern hemisphere during the coldest or most snowbound period around February. The International Olympic Committee will choose a host for 2022 in four years' time.

"If it was decided that the World Cup will take place in the winter months of 2022 then FIFA will have to work with the IOC in order to avoid a clash," Walters explained.

"There are a number of key stakeholders that such a clash could impact on, including the broadcasters and sponsors."

Any impact on TV audiences would make them "less inclined to pay the substantial sums involved in televising and being associated with the events leading to a reduction in revenue," he added.



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Jets lose Woody for rest of playoffs

FLORHAM PARK, New Jersey (AFP) – The New York Jets have lost offensive tackle Damien Woody for the rest of the NFL playoffs with a left Achilles tendon injury.

The Jets put Woody on injured reserve on Wednesday, a potentially big blow as they prepare to face Woody's former team, the New England Patriots, on Sunday.

Woody returned from a right knee problem to play all but the final three plays of last weekend's first-round playoff victory at Indianapolis.

He hurt his Achilles tendon on the final drive and was replaced by Wayne Hunter, who will start on Sunday at New England.

Hunter started the last three games of the regular season while Woody was sidelined. Jets coach Rex Ryan expressed confidence in the seven-year veteran.

"We are fortunate we have Wayne Hunter," Ryan said.

Ryan said Woody will likely have surgery.

"It's tough, because he worked his tail off to get back," Ryan said. "Then he had a great challenge in front of him and did a great job against (Colts defensive end) Robert Mathis. Now he doesn't have the chance to play against his old team, New England."

Woody spent five years with the Patriots, mostly as a center, before moving to Detroit for four seasons.

LeBron James says tweet not a dig at Cavs



CLEVELAND, Ohio (AFP) – LeBron James insisted Wednesday his apparent Twitter dig at Cleveland wasn't an attempt to kick his former team when they were down, but just a comment on "how I was feeling at the time".

The struggling Cavaliers suffered a stunning 55-point loss to the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday, and a tweet from James appeared to be a dig at his former team and its owner, Dan Gilbert.

"Crazy," James tweeted. "Karma is a b----. Gets you every time. Its not good to wish bad on anybody."

The tweet appeared to refer to infuriated comments Gilbert made in July, after James announced he was departing Cleveland as a free agent for the Miami Heat.

Gilbert wrote an open letter to Cavaliers fans predicting a curse would follow James to Florida.

"James will unfortunately own this dreaded spell and bad karma," Gilbert said then.

But prior to Miami's game at the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday, James said the tweet wasn't aimed at Gilbert or the Cavs at all.

In fact, he indicated he was passing on a comment from someone else, although there wasn't an indication on his Twitter account that it was

the time," James said in a somewhat awkward explanation.

James was vague on just what the karma comment did mean.

"Where I come from and my background I've always kind of used that (karma) to not take things for granted ever," he said. "We all know how strong of a word it is."

The two-time NBA Most Valuable Player said the whole thing had been overblown.

"Everyone looks into everything that I say," he said. "Everybody looked too far into it."

a re-tweet.

"It's just how I was feeling at

Utah Jazz's Kirilenko becomes US citizen



SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (AFP) – Utah Jazz forward Andrei Kirilenko, a veteran in international play for his native Russia, has become a

US citizen.

Kirilenko and his wife, Masha, both passed the citizenship tests and were sworn in as US citizens on Monday, he said after Utah's morning shoot-around on Wednesday.

Their two sons, both born in the United States, now are citizens as well, but Kirilenko said their young daughter, who was adopted in Russia, still must deal with visa issues because she was born in Russia.



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Van Bommel to remain Bayern captain, says Van Gaal

BERLIN (AFP) - Dutch midfielder Mark van Bommel will captain defending German champions Bayern Munich against Steve McClaren's Wolfsburg on Saturday, despite being out of contract in June, says coach Louis van Gaal.

The 33-year-old van Bommel's contract expires at the end of the season while his potential replacement, Brazilian Luiz Gustavo, has signed for 15 million euros (19.7 million US dollars) from Hoffenheim.

With Bayern 14 points behind current Bundesliga leaders Dortmund, Munich resume their quest to close the gap against 2009 German champions Wolfsburg and van Bommel is set to take charge of Bayern on the pitch.

Wolfsburg have gone eight games without a win and ex-England coach Steve McClaren is under pressure to keep his job after his side were dumped out of the German Cup by second division Aachen before Christmas.

Stars to help Australia's flood victims

SYDNEY (AFP) - Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal are among the big names in tennis to take part in a special exhibition on the eve of the Australian Open to raise money for the victims of Australia's flood disaster.

All-time Grand Slam champion Federer, world number one Nadal, Kim Clijsters, Lleyton Hewitt, Novak Djokovic and Pat Rafter are among the elite players who will play in the Rally for Relief match at Melbourne's Rod Laver Arena on Sunday.

The heart-rending scenes

of Queensland's floods which have left 15 people dead and inundated Australia's third-largest city Brisbane have shaken the international tennis fraternity, gathering in Melbourne for Monday's season-opening Grand Slam.

"Along with many of the other players I was moved by the devastation caused by the floods in Australia," Federer said in a statement.

"We just wanted to do something to help aid the recovery because we know there are thousands of Australians who will continue to

suffer as a result of this disaster."

"I am pleased to be able to contribute in some way to help bring it to the attention of the world and raise some money for the victims in the process," Nadal said.

Hewitt, Australia's two-time Grand Slam champion, said it was time for the tennis community to do their bit for those affected.

"As an Australian I cannot help but be touched by such an awful turn of events. It is a disaster on a massive scale," Hewitt said.

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